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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/595,024	12/20/2005	Mitsuru Sekiya	44471/324299	1311

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EXAMINER

AURORA, REENA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2862

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/595,024	Applicant(s) SEKIYA, MITSURU	
	Examiner Reena Aurora	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10 - 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 9 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/20/05, 12/20/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oudet et al. (5,532,585).

As to claim 1, Oudet et al. (hereinafter Oudet) discloses a position sensor comprising a slider (12, fig. 1) having a magnet (3); a stator (4) consisting of a magnetic body having an area allowing the slider (12) to move while keeping a predetermined clearance; a magnetically-sensitive sensor (7) provided in the stator (4) to detect a position of the slider (12) corresponding to a percentage of the magnet (3) entering the area; and a magnetic flux leakproof member (5) for preventing magnetic flux, which is generated in a part of the magnet (3) that does not enter the area, from leaking out to the stator (4).

As to claims 2 – 3, Oudet discloses a position sensor comprising a slider (12) having a magnet (3) having its front (N) and back (S) faces whose polarities are different from each other; a stator (4) consisting of a magnetic body having a pair of opposed walls (4, 13) forming an area allowing the slider (12) to move while keeping a predetermined clearance, the opposed walls (4, 13) corresponding to the front and back

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faces of the magnet (3); a magnetically-sensitive sensor (7) provided in the stator (4) to detect a position of the slider (12) corresponding to a percentage of the magnet (3) entering the area; and a magnetic flux leakproof member (5) for preventing magnetic flux, which is generated in a part of the magnet (3) that does not enter the area, from leaking out to the stator (4).

As to claims 4 – 6, Oudet discloses a position sensor comprising a slider (12) having a magnet (3) having its front (N) and back (S) faces whose polarities are different from each other; a main stator (4) consisting of a magnetic body having a pair of opposed walls (4, 13) forming an area allowing the slider (12) to move while keeping a predetermined clearance, the opposed walls (4, 13) corresponding to the front (N) and back (S) faces of the magnet (3), and a gap (2) continuing into the opposed walls; a magnetically-sensitive sensor (7) arranged in the gap to detect a position of the slider (12) corresponding to a percentage of the magnet (3) entering the area; and an assist stator (5) for preventing magnetic flux, which is generated in a part of the magnet (3) that does not enter the area, from leaking out to the main stator (4).

As to claims 7 - 9, Oudet discloses a position sensor comprising a slider (12) having a magnet (3) having its front (N) and back (S) faces whose polarities are different from each other; a main stator (4) consisting of a magnetic body having a pair of opposed walls (4, 13) forming a first area allowing the slider (12) to move while keeping a predetermined clearance, the opposed walls (4, 13) corresponding to the front and back faces of the magnet (3), and a gap (2) continuing into the opposed walls

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(4, 13); an assist stator (5) arranged at a gap extending along a moving direction of the slider (12) from the main stator (4), the assist stator (5) consisting of a magnetic body having a pair of opposed walls (5 and opposite wall of 13) forming a second area allowing the slider (12) to move while keeping a predetermined clearance; and a magnetically-sensitive sensor (7) arranged in the gap of the main stator (4) to detect a position of the slider (12) corresponding to a percentage of the magnet (3) entering the first area of the main stator (4).

As to claim 17, Oudet discloses a position sensor comprising a slider (12) consisting of a pair of magnets (3) whose side edges along a moving direction of the slider are joined to each other and each of which has front and back faces whose polarities are different from each other and an armature provided on one side face of the pair of magnets; a main stator (4) consisting of a magnetic body arranged in a position opposing the other side face of the pair of magnets; a magnetically-sensitive sensor (7) provided in the main stator (4) to detect a position of the slider (12) corresponding to a percentage of the magnets (3) entering an area where the slider (12) opposes the main stator (4); and an assist stator (5) consisting of a magnetic body for preventing magnetic flux, which is generated in parts of the magnets that do not enter the area, from leaking out to the main stator (4).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10 – 16 are allowed.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reena Aurora whose telephone number is 571-272-2263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, E. Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Reena Aurora


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